

TC 4413 (1)

1957



BOROUGH OF GODALMING



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1957

TOGETHER WITH THAT OF THE

Chief
Public Health Inspector

Mills & Sons, Printers, Ltd., Guildford.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1957.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Godalming.*

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present to you my Annual Report for the year 1957, a year during which fortunately nothing outstanding of an unsatisfactory nature occurred. In the Public Health world it is the serious, the dangerous and the unpleasant which make headlines, and to avoid this is the aim of the Medical Officer of Health.

There were more notifications of Infectious Disease than in the previous year, 313 cases (mostly Measles) as compared with 39 in 1956, which latter was a quite remarkably low figure. The year as a whole was not a severe one so far as Poliomyelitis was concerned, especially in Surrey, and Godalming had only two cases, both in children. Seven cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to Hospital, details being given in the appropriate Table.

The Death Rate remains below the national figure, though a little higher than in 1956.

The Infant Mortality rate is well above that for 1956, which as reported last year was unbelievably low, and a freak figure: this year's figure is nearly twice as good as the national figure. There has been no maternal death in Godalming since 1953.

Some progress was made during 1957 with the County Council's scheme for Poliomyelitis Vaccination, but owing to the small supplies of vaccine received fewer children were vaccinated than was hoped. No untoward effects occurred, and it may be accepted that this scheme has come

to stay, as first results indicate that the un-vaccinated child is four times more likely to become infected than the vaccinated.

During the year, it remained impossible for the Water Board to use all the sources of supply at the Borough Road Pumping Station owing to the water not being of the required standard. Occasional complaints were received as usual about the high iron content of the water; some of the Board's new projects to overcome this were nearing completion during 1957, and there is every prospect of consumers ultimately receiving an adequate supply containing iron in such small amounts as to cause no complaint.

It is most satisfactory to be able to report that not one single complaint of nuisance from the Sewage Disposal Works was received in the Public Health Department during the year. Undoubtedly the money spent on the improvements was well spent.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector indicates that some progress continues to be made in dealing with sub-standard houses; it is apparent to all that such progress must be limited by the Council's ability to provide new houses for the re-housing of those displaced from unfit houses.

It may truthfully be said that the vital statistics show that those who have the good fortune to live in the pleasant country Borough of Godalming are indeed lucky from the health angle, and avoid equally the discomforts and disadvantages of the large industrial Boroughs and of some of the more isolated Rural areas.

May I be allowed to thank the members of the Health Committee and the Council for their interest and help in the work of the Department. I should also like to thank Mr. Warner and the other members of the Health Department for their good work and support, and the Officers of the Council for their kind help.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

A. B. R. FINN,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. B. R. FINN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

A. H. M. RICHARDS, M.A., T.D., B.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. A. WARNER, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

C. R. PESKETT, C.S.I.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Both Inspectors also hold the Certificate of the
Royal Sanitary Institute
in Meat and other Foods Inspection.)

Clerk:

Miss J. S. STEARNE.

Statistical and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area: 2,393 acres.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, mid-year 1957):
15,640.

Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1957), according
to Rate Books: 4,780.

Rateable Value: £246,883.

Sum represented by a penny rate, 31st March, 1957:
£1,017 (latest figure available).

Extracts from Vital Statistics

(Comparative of the years 1956 and 1957).

	1956			1957			England and Wales, 1957.	
	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.		
Live Births	...	207	107	100	246	126	120	
Legitimate	...	205	106	99	240	125	115	
Illegitimate	...	2	1	1	6	1	5	
Live Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	13.99			16.34			16.1
Still Births—								
Legitimate	...	4	3	1	4	3	1	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 Live and Still Births	...	18.95			19.92			22.4
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	1			3			
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 Live Births	4.83				12.19			23.0
Deaths	...	153	75	78	190	101	89	
Death Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	9.16			11.29			11.5

The Birth Rate shows an appreciable rise, as will be seen, and accords closely with the figure for England and Wales. Still Births occur in only a very small proportion of deliveries in these days, owing to improved ante natal and obstetric care.

The Death Rate calls for no comment, except that there were appreciably more deaths in males than females. Three children died under the age of one year, one at five hours, one at one day, and one at nine months. The percentage of deaths occurring over the age of sixty-five years again rose from 69 % in 1956 to 73 % in 1957. This fact, while being encouraging from the angle of preventive medicine, certainly brings its problems in the care and housing of the elderly.

Godalming Deaths in 1957.

As always, 50% of all deaths were due to Diseases of the Heart and Arteries: this includes Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System, i.e., Strokes, and Coronary Artery Disease, the latter being the biggest item in this group.

Cancer was the second largest cause of death, accounting for 20% of all deaths; there were nearly twice as many deaths from lung cancer than in the previous year, and all were in males. Work continues on the causation of lung cancer, but the medical profession are fully satisfied that heavy cigarette smoking (over twenty-five per day) is a factor in the causation of lung cancer. Not until a National Campaign is sponsored by the Government will progress be made in discouraging heavy cigarette smoking, the public being notoriously unreceptive to advice which is distasteful to them; nevertheless the warning is there for those wise enough to take it.

Deaths from infectious disease were three, two from Tuberculosis and one from Meningitis.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. All examinations and tests are carried out free of charge to Local Authorities.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** This work is done in the Borough by the Godalming Division of the British Red Cross Society for the County Council, using six full-time drivers manning two ambulances. The Station is manned by permanent staff from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. At other times the Station is manned by voluntary members.

Work done by the Society's personnel and ambulances during the year was as follows:—

Number of calls	...	...	...	5,810
Number of patients attended	...	...	...	4,690
Number of miles travelled	...	...	...	49,238
Voluntary hours of duty (including cinemas, fêtes, etc., with Ambulance)	...	...	...	9,915

The number of hours of voluntary duty is a tremendous credit to the Red Cross members.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.** This work is carried out in the Borough by three excellent Queen's District Nurses. The work runs smoothly and has increased over past years. Their work for 1957 is as follows:—

		Cases.	Visits.
General Visits (excluding T.B.) ...	417	5,316	
Midwifery and Maternity ...	66	1,481	
Tuberculosis	2	90	
Ante-Natal and Post-Natal ...	66	353	
 Totals	 551	 7,240	

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.** (See inside back cover.)

(e) **Hospital Provision.**

(1) St. Luke's Hospital, Warren Road, Guildford, offers 389 general beds and two private. Apart from Specialist work in General Medical and Surgery, there is emphasis on obstetrics, gynaecology, paediatrics, geriatrics, dermatology and X-Ray Therapy.

(2) The Royal Surrey County Hospital of Guildford offers 263 beds. An average of 187 beds were occupied daily throughout the year. 10,238 out-patients made 34,749 attendances, and in addition 21,792 patients attended the Casualty Department. The Hospital carries a staff of Specialists in all branches of medicine and surgery with the exception of gynaecology, paediatrics, and dermatology.

(3) St. Thomas's Hospital, Hydestile, near Godalming, had 154 beds during 1957; most of the patients came from London though some local residents were admitted as a concession, which has been very much appreciated over the war and post-war years by the residents of Godalming.

News has now been received with regret that the Governors have finally decided that no more local patients can be admitted. The sincere thanks of many of us who have lived in and around Godalming must go to this Hospital which in a few short years has earned such esteem and a place in the life of the district.

(4) Milford Chest Hospital, near Godalming. This is a Special Hospital, which has 280 beds for Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other Chest Diseases, including Lung Cancer. It receives many patients from Godalming suffering from these complaints; much of the work involves Chest Surgery, including Heart operations.

This Hospital provides the Chest Clinic facilities for Out-Patients from Godalming, under the control of the Medical Superintendent and his staff.

(f) **Maternity and Nursing Homes.** There is one registered nursing home in the Borough in the name of the Franciscan Sisters, Mount Alvernia, Godalming, with accommodation for sixteen maternity, surgical and medical patients.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Disease. Cases of Infectious Diseases admitted to Hospital are shown in the Table:—

				Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	1
Gastro-enteritis	1
Food Poisoning	1
Dysentery	1
Whooping Cough	1
Meningitis	1
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				7
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Three hundred and eight cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year; the increase over the very low figure for 1956 was largely due to 234 cases of Measles, of which there were only 21 cases the previous year. There were no deaths.

As usual only very few cases required admission to Hospital, and then usually for social reasons rather than on grounds of severity. Most go to Green Lane Hospital at Farnham, others occasionally to Ottershaw Isolation Hospital, or St. Luke's Hospital at Guildford.

Poliomyelitis. As mentioned in the introduction, there were only two cases of this disease, one paralytic and one non-paralytic; both were in children, and neither was severe. There was no connection between the two cases.

It is hoped that the Poliomyelitis Vaccination programme will reduce the incidence of this disease; but the numbers vaccinated up to the end of 1957 were insignificant, and quite insufficient to alter the general picture.

The number of children vaccinated in Godalming up to the end of 1957 was only 519, leaving approximately 1,000 children registered and awaiting vaccination. Just before the end of 1957 the scheme was extended to further age groups, and more registrations poured in. At the time of writing this report the picture has brightened enormously as the result of receiving very large supplies of vaccine at last.

Food Poisoning. There were twelve cases during the year, and although this was more than the previous year, they were isolated cases; it is incidents involving numbers of people using canteens, restaurants and other community feeding centres which are to be feared, and fortunately there were none of these.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Age at Final Injection.	Primary Injection.	Re-inforcing Injection.
Under 1 year ...	155	—
1 year ...	15	2
2 years ...	16	1
3 years ...	3	—
4 years ...	—	—
5 to 9 years ...	3	8
10 to 14 years ...	2	3
<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	194	14
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This Table shows little variation from the previous year. So far as the County Council's Clinics are concerned, re-inforcing injections are not considered to be indicated and are not carried out.

Four of the cases of Whooping Cough notified occurred in immunised children.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Under 1										Totals
	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	
Measles	5	14	22	26	32	130	4	—	—	1	234
Food Poisoning	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	12
Whooping Cough	4	—	2	2	1	28	4	1	2	1	45
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	6
Poliomyelitis:											
Non-paratitic	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	1	—	4	2	—	—	—	8
Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	12	17	26	32	34	165	12	1	4	-1	308

Summary of Returns of Cases and Contacts of Infectious Diseases received from Schools.

Note: Those diseases marked * are not included among the list of Infectious Diseases which are Statutorily Notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

Disease	Busbridge C. of E. School	Godalming County Grammar School	Farncombe C. of E. Junior Mixed School	Farncombe C. of E. Infants Mixed School	Godalming County Primary Mixed School	Godalming C. of E. Primary Mixed School	Meadow County Secondary School	Wharf Day Nursery	Totals	
Measles	...	—	1	2	44	68	48	2	—	165
*Mumps	...	2	3	—	1	4	—	—	—	10
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	35	22	9	3	—	—	69
Scarlet Fever	...	4	4	3	—	3	—	2	1	17
*Chicken Pox	...	27	1	5	5	1	—	—	—	39
*German Measles	—	—	—	15	6	31	—	—	—	52
*Infective Jaundice	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
*Glandular Fever	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
*Influenza	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	33	13	25	91	130	57	8	1	358

Diphtheria. Though Godalming had no case of Diphtheria, cases of this disease still occur from time to time in this country, and are frequently severe in the case of the un-immunised. It is only by continually urging Diphtheria Immunisation that this disease can be controlled; were cases of it to occur, the public would be more anxious for their children to be immunised, as is the case with Poliomyelitis.

During 1956, the latest for which figures have been published, there were fifty-three cases of Diphtheria with eight deaths in England and Wales.

The immunisation statistics for Godalming show that the percentage immunised within five years of birth rose from 76% in 1956 to 79% in 1957; the national target is 75%, but this is not achieved in many areas. The aim is to immunise children in infancy, on entering school at five years, and again at ten years.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics.

Age at 31st December, 1957	i.e., Born in Year	Number Immunised	Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1957	Number and Percentage Immunised
Under 1	1957	35		
1—4	1953—1956	658		
5—9	1948—1952	869		
10—14	1943—1947	1046		
<hr/>				
Totals, under 15	—	2608	3281	2608 (79%)

Vaccinations against Smallpox. During 1957, 163 infants under the age of one year were vaccinated; the right time for primary vaccination is at about three months old, as not only does this protect the infant but it reduces the likelihood of reactions if vaccination is required later in life. Smallpox still occurs in this country, usually being brought in by air or sea travellers, and fatalities occur every year. Smallpox vaccination in infancy is a wise step.

Tuberculosis. During 1957, twelve new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, four less than in 1956;

there was one new Non-Pulmonary case. There was one death during the year from non-pulmonary tuberculosis in a man of 80 years.

The number on the Tuberculosis Register was practically unchanged, being 102 at the end of 1957 and 104 at the end of 1956. As reported last year, there is now no delay in getting a bed in Hospital for a case of Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. Vaccination, which confers immunity against Tuberculosis, is available for thirteen year old school children under a National Scheme, and is carried out by the School Health Service of the County Council on those found to need it. The figures for Godalming for 1957 (including Private Schools, except Charterhouse which at present has not entered the scheme) are:—

Percentage accepting the offer of B.C.G.

Vaccination	...	...	...	74
Number receiving B.C.G. Vaccination	...	...	...	150
Number already immune and not requiring Vaccination	...	...	...	13

The following Table shows age groups of new cases and deaths during 1957:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1-5	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
5-10	...	—	1	—	—	...	—	—
10-15	...	1	—	—	—	...	—	—
15-20	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
20-25	...	*1	*1	—	—	...	—	—
25-30	...	—	*1	—	—	...	—	—
30-35	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
35-45	...	*1	3 (*2)	—	—	...	—	—
45-55	(*1) 3	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—	...	—	—
65 and over	—	—	*1	—	—	...	†1	1
Totals	6	6	1	—	...	1	—	1

(*Transfer.

†This was a notified case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but death was not due primarily to this disease.)

After-Care. The Godalming and Haslemere Tuberculosis Care Committee continues its useful voluntary work in fulfilling the special needs of families in their area where the National Health allowances do not cover these emergencies. Grants made during 1957-58 to sixteen Godalming and ten Haslemere patients totalled £149.

Four child contacts, from local families affected by tuberculosis, were given a fortnight's holiday from the Children's Holiday Fund of the Standing Conference of Surrey Tuberculosis Care Committees, to which this Committee makes an annual donation of £40.

The result of the 1957 Christmas Seals Sale Appeal, which forms the Committee's main source of annual revenue, amounted to £117, and the Committee's thanks are again due to individual subscribers, local firms, schools and social organisations for their generosity in using and disposing of the Seals.

This method of raising funds is becoming increasingly difficult as so many worthy National Appeals are made through the medium of Seals; but subscribers to this Committee's appeal have the satisfaction of knowing that the whole of the funds so raised are spent on local necessitous patients and their families.

Mrs. G. S. Skelton is Chairman of the Committee, Mr. P. A. Warner and Miss J. S. Stearne, of the Godalming Borough Health Department, are Honorary Secretary and Treasurer and Assistant Honorary Secretary respectively.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Report

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Summary of Routine and other Inspection Work carried out.

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE.

Housing Inspections and Re-Inspections (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	... 1,451
Nuisances, Complaints, Advisory Visits, etc.	... 1,177
Inspections of—	
Drainage to Houses, including Tests ...	... 322
Dairies, Milk Shops, and Milk Stores ...	... 35
Factories, Work-Places and Outworkers' Premises	51
Food Shops and places where Food is prepared and stored, including Ice Cream Premises ...	337
Food Inspection ...	... 68
Premises reference Provision of Dustbins ...	100
Public and Private Conveniences ...	... 27
Miscellaneous Inspections ...	... 148
Investigations and Inspections under—	
Shops and Young Persons Employment Acts ...	93
Petroleum Acts ...	... 95
Infectious Diseases (including Disinfections) ...	275
Part IV Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (including testing and treatment of sewers) ...	78
Water Supplies ...	... 32
Milk Samples ...	... 61
Water Samples ...	... 36
Ice Cream Samples ...	... 16
Cream Samples ...	... 3
Total ...	... 4,413

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices	...	...	11
Informal Notices	...	...	322
			—
Total	...	...	333
			—
Not complied with at 31.12.57			24
			—

Factories Acts, 1937—1948.

(Information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.)

I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND OTHER PREMISES UNDER THE ACT.

Premises.	Inspec-tions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	38	5	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	7	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	6	—	—
	—	—	—
	51	5	—
	—	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Premises.	Number of Defects		Referred by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient ...	...	2	2	—
Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	1	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	5	5	1	—
	—	—	—	—

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**WATER SUPPLIES.****Public Supplies.**

The Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board supplies water to the whole of the Borough area. No new sources of supply were brought into use and one of the wells at the Borough Road source is still being pumped to waste due to chemical pollution.

Frequent samples are taken from all sources of supply and from various points within the Borough and the Water Board's area. The samples show the water to have a very high standard of bacterial purity. The water is chlorinated to ensure a safe supply.

Private Supplies.

There are two private wells in the Borough still in use; one supplying a proportion of a school premise, the other a factory and a number of cottages. Samples show these supplies to be of a good bacterial standard.

Swimming Pools.

There are two swimming pools, both privately owned; one being an open air pool of 30,000 gallons to which the public are admitted, and the other an indoor pool of 86,000 gallons which is used by a number of schools in the area. The open air pool is operated on the fill-and-empty system; mains water is used together with continuous filtration and manual chlorination. The indoor pool is supplied by its own well and the water is pre-heated, chlorinated and aerated and maintains a very high standard of purity.

Samples.

From private wells, reservoirs and supply systems	16 samples	— 8 satisfactory.
From swimming pools ...	18 samples	— 9 satisfactory.
From mains supplies ...	2 samples	— 2 satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Drainage.

No new drainage works have been undertaken during the year under review.

Existing Drainage.

There were 315 visits, tests and inspections to drainage systems at all classes of premises; the defects found as a result were remedied by informal action except in one case where a formal notice was required before the necessary works were carried out. Chokages reported and discovered on inspection were quickly dealt with, either by the Council as a recoverable works item or by the occupier or owner's own builder or contractor.

Sanitary Accommodation.

There are now 48 premises in the Borough not connected to the main sewer. With few exceptions it is impracticable to make a connection, and alternative means of sewage disposal are made as follows:—

8 chemical closets serving 4 houses and 10 Almshouses.
4 pail closets serving 3 premises.

27 cesspools and septic tanks serving 31 premises.
During the year one property was connected to the sewer by means of a rising main and small pumping station; one

new septic tank system installed. Plans have been submitted for improvements and main drainage at Wyatt's Almshouses; also for the construction of new conveniences at Bowring's Recreation Ground, to provide modern sanitary conveniences replacing the existing pail closets.

Most cesspools have been adapted for use as septic tanks the effluent being disposed of by means of soakaways or sub-surface irrigation systems. Private contractors and the Council offer an emptying and de-sludging service at reasonable charges and little difficulty was experienced. Nuisances arising were quickly dealt with and suggested improvements and modifications to a number of installations were effected with satisfactory results.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One case of pollution was reported during the year, and satisfactorily dealt with by informal action.

One formal notice under Section 259 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was served, requiring the clearance of a choked watercourse.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage is maintained to all premises in the Borough by means of standard refuse collection vehicles. Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at Broadwater. The tip is very well maintained and kept remarkably free from vermin.

Standard refuse bins are required at all premises and defective bins renewed by occupiers, normally on service of an informal notice. No formal notices were served.

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections and visits were made during the year to shop premises regarding the provisions of the Act with respect to sanitary accommodation, employees' welfare, closing hours, assistants' half-holidays, Sunday closing, etc. These provisions were generally well observed and all contraventions were remedied informally.

Internal alterations to several shop premises were effected during the year, which included improved conditions for staffs.

PETROLEUM ACTS, 1928-1936.

There are 37 premises licensed annually for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures. During the year 95 inspections were made to these premises to ensure that licence conditions were observed, and adequate precautions taken. One new unit, comprising an underground tank and surface pump, was installed and satisfied the standard tests.

The Petroleum Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, 1957, came into force on the 1st July, 1957. These require licensees of premises to which petroleum spirit is delivered to mark petrol tanks and their dipsticks with an identical number in series, and to take certain other precautions to ensure safe deliveries of petrol to their premises.

Licensees of premises in the Borough having petrol storage tanks were notified of the Regulations in April, 1957, and the statutory requirements promptly met.

The Home Office also issued a "Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions" for the guidance of Local Authorities; the Code is being examined and those requirements considered applicable to local conditions will be included in 1958 licences.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Three complaints were received during the year concerning smoke nuisances. The persons responsible complied with the requirements of informal notices and abated the nuisance.

INSECT PESTS.

During the year 57 infestations of various pests were dealt with successfully by the use of suitable insecticides in liquid or powder form.

The annual spraying of County Council School Canteens was carried out and a number of privately owned Cafes, Bakehouses, etc., were also treated for various pests.

DISINFECTIONS.

Disinfections were carried out to three premises following the removal to hospital of infectious persons.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on within the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The scheme for the destruction of rats and mice in the Borough continues to function very successfully and economically. Operated in accordance with Ministry instructions the scheme attracts a 50% grant.

One part-time Rodent Operator is employed and a free service is offered to infested private premises. Business premises are charged at the inclusive rate of 7/6d. per hour, or alternatively are offered a Contract service giving monthly inspections as a minimum and carrying out all treatments as and when required. In the year under review twenty contracts produced a sum of £98.

Both the general public and local traders are very co-operative in reporting infestations in the early stages, thereby considerably reducing the amount of work required and making control much easier. Co-operation was also evident in effecting essential works of rat-proofing, removal of harbourage, etc., and no formal action was necessary.

Most infestations were of a minor character and the use of "Warfarin" gave excellent results.

Sewer Treatments.

Soil sewers in the Borough are subjected to tests and treatments for the control of rats. Minor pockets of infestation have been successfully treated by the use of "Warfarin" baits, with paranitrophenal added as a preservative.

Rodent Operator.

Mr. C. E. Hall continues to give very satisfactory service, combining the duties of part-time Rodent Operator with other general duties in pest destruction, drainage tests, disinfections, etc., together with other duties under the Borough Surveyor.

NEW HOUSING.

The number of new houses erected during the year was as follows:—

By the Council	72
By private persons	61
Number of houses converted into flats ...	8

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list totalled 600 at the 31st December, 1957, and during the year 126 applicants were re-housed. Applicants living in unfit or overcrowded houses, or suffering from tuberculosis or other circumstances prejudicial to health are referred to the Department for enquiry and report, and receive special consideration by the Housing Committee.

EXISTING HOUSING.

The five-year programme ending in 1960 dealing with unfit houses is already well advanced; the position at the 31st December, 1957, being:—

1. Number of properties included in programme submitted in 1955	112
Additional properties since dealt with	10
	122
2. (a) Demolition Orders made ...	8
(b) Closing Orders made ...	17
(c) Undertakings accepted ...	33
(d) Improvements and conversions pending or completed ...	21
(e) Properties repaired ...	6
	85
3. No action taken yet ...	37
	122

During 1957, twenty-one premises were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense. Six houses were subsequently purchased and demolished, one house was closed and in fourteen cases Undertakings were accepted that the houses would not be re-let for human habitation. Four of these

houses have already been demolished and the demolition of a further three is imminent.

Twenty-two families occupying unfit dwellings already dealt with await re-housing by the Council. During the year 24 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

Improvement Grants.

With approximately 25 % (about 1,000) of the houses in the Borough without bathrooms, indoor toilets, hot water systems or proper food stores, the Council have rightly given owners and owner/occupiers every encouragement to install these necessary amenities with the aid of the generous provisions of the Housing Act Improvement Grant Scheme.

Since the commencement of the scheme a total of 133 applications have been received seeking assistance under the scheme, and are classified as follows:—

Schemes completed	...	...	...	...	69
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	15
Applications refused or withdrawn	...	...	...	...	30
Applications approved, but work not commenced					19
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	133
					—

The completion of an improvement grant scheme provides a unit of accommodation with all modern amenities for a minimum period of 15 years. It often completely transforms a sub-standard house for moderate cost and gives it a further useful life. Some of the houses, but for these improvements and repairs, would, without doubt, in the course of a few years have become liabilities instead of assets.

Inspection and Repair.

General inspection of houses continued following receipt of complaints, and some survey work was also carried out. In the latter part of the year this work was combined with inspections and action under the Rent Acts.

A further 61 houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts. In eight cases statutory notices were served and one notice was complied with by the end of the year.

Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954.

One Certificate of Disrepair issued under this Act was revoked during the year.

Rent Act, 1957.

Although the provisions of the Rent Act of 1957 have brought about some improvement in the repair and maintenance problem of the lower rated controlled houses, it is still more than likely that a good proportion of these houses will not receive much in the way of repair or maintenance. Moreover, the main incentive to the progressive landlord to improve his houses under the Improvement Grant scheme is virtually removed. Tenants are apparently content to accept a much lower standard of repair than was at first expected or is envisaged in the Housing Acts or Rent Acts.

Generally speaking there have been few disputes over "unreasonable" items and from twenty applications received for Certificates of Disrepair only nine Certificates were in fact issued, the landlords undertaking to do the work specified in the other cases. In addition to the proposal to issue a Certificate of Disrepair, opportunity was taken in every case to inspect the house under the Housing and Public Health Acts and serve any necessary notices: a procedure which worked very well in most cases, and produced satisfactory results.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

General.

A total of 339 inspections and advisory visits have been made to premises used for the storage, manufacture, preparation, handling and distribution of food intended for human consumption. With three notable exceptions, owners and occupiers have co-operated very well and have complied with written and verbal requirements made under the Food Hygiene Regulations and other Regulations and Enactments.

Improvements to premises continue to be made and the standard of hygiene is gradually reaching more acceptable standards, though there is still room for further improvement. The problems in the older premises are being slowly met by reconstruction and improvement schemes, though

in some cases limitation of space is a severe handicap. Mobile trading is on the increase particularly on the new housing estates, but there is little open food handled and the vehicles are modern and well equipped. Meat and offal is being prepared, priced, pre-packed, and frozen at two premises, both of which are modern and well-equipped. The resultant product is an attractive hygienic food pack.

Food Inspection.

The following is a list of foodstuffs inspected during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption. All these goods were voluntarily surrendered and collected by the Health Department for proper disposal under supervision, or salvaged for animal feeding stuffs. No difficulties have been experienced.

Perishable Goods:

Meat, English and Imported, including Offals ...	...	97	lbs.
Fish	...	6	stones

Tinned Goods:

Fruits	...	...	166	tins
Vegetables	...	...	148	tins
Meats	...	...	191	tins
Miscellaneous	...	...	220	tins

Milk Supplies.

The Borough is within a "specified area" for milk, and all milk sold in the area must be of special designation, i.e. Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Sterilised Milk. All milk supplies in the Borough are designated milks, four Dairies being licensed for the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk. Seven persons hold licences to sell Sterilised Milk, and two distributors hold licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milks in the Borough from premises situated outside the area.

Routine inspection and sampling is carried out at all premises, and samples taken from distributors to ensure compliance with all the requirements. During the year 61 samples of milk were taken, and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. The Laboratory provides a free service for bacteriological and biological examinations for local authori-

ties and is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Details of the samples taken and results are as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk: 22 samples—all satisfactory.

Sterilised Milk: 6 samples—all satisfactory.

Tuberculin Tested Milk: 33 samples—8 unsatisfactory.

Eleven of the Tuberculin Tested Milk samples were also submitted to a biological examination and no evidence of tubercle bacilli was found. Three samples of cream were submitted for analysis and gave satisfactory results.

Ice Cream Premises (and Confectioners).

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough and no 'loose' ice cream is sold except from proper premises. During the year sixteen samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory:—

13 placed in Grade 1 (satisfactory).

2 placed in Grade 2.

1 placed in Grade 3.

All premises in the Borough used for the storage or sale of ice cream are registered and during the year two new registrations were granted. Premises must comply with the Acts and Regulations governing the sale of food and ice cream, and inspections and visits were made to ensure that satisfactory conditions existed; no formal action was required.

Bakeries and Cake Shops.

Visits are made to the thirteen premises used primarily for the sale of bread, flour, cakes and sugar confectionery. Nine of these premises have their own bakehouses, all of which are above ground. Written and verbal notices served requiring improvements, cleansing, repairs and other works were generally well complied with, except in one case where proceedings were recommended for failure to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations; subsequently some attempt to comply with the regulations was made and further action withheld. The premises have since closed. A complete reconstruction scheme is in preparation for one of the old out-of-date bakeries.

Fish Shops.

There are eight fish shops in the Borough, four of these being Fried Fish Shops; all shops now have closed fronts and the premises are generally well maintained and little difficulty experienced.

Licensed Premises.

The twenty-three licensed premises in the Borough have satisfactory sanitary accommodation for persons frequenting the premises; all are supplied with adequate facilities for cleansing glasses, etc., and have a constant supply of hot water to sinks.

Restaurants, Cafes and Canteens.

Inspections have been made to the twenty-two premises classed under this heading to secure compliance with legislation governing such premises. Occupiers co-operated in maintaining a good standard and no statutory action was necessary.

Grocers, Greengrocers, etc.

There are forty-eight such premises at present in use. Inspections and advisory visits are made to promote cleanliness, prevent forms of contamination and ensure that adequate washing facilities and hot water supplies are readily available for all persons employed. Foodstuffs inspected and found unfit for human consumption are listed elsewhere in this Report.

Meat Supplies.

All slaughterhouses within the Borough have remained closed since 1940 and no licences have been issued since the Borough joined a scheme whereby the bulk of the home-killed meat consumed in the area is supplied through the modern Abattoir at Guildford. The existing slaughterhouses are sited unsatisfactorily and their condition is such that it would be uneconomical to put them in good order sufficient to meet modern requirements. The present arrangement appears to be working quite satisfactorily.

The fourteen Butchers' shops in the Borough are all registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of sausages, etc. All are inspected to detect contraventions of the various enactments,

and for the inspection of meat and other products. Meat and offal found to be unfit for human consumption is listed under Food Inspection, and disposal is as described. The quantity condemned as unfit is but a very small proportion of the amount consumed in the area.

Adulteration and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The Surrey County Council administers those provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts within the Borough, dealing with the sampling and analysis of articles of food, etc., for the detection of adulterations, deterioration, etc.

The County Medical Officer of Health reports that the following samples were taken in the Borough and analysed during 1957:—

Formal: Twenty-seven samples of Milk.

Informal: Thirty-seven samples of Milk, and one each of Bacon, Beer, Butter, Cake Mixture, Cherries (tinned), Christmas Pudding, Flour, Ice Cream, Jam, Meat (Cooked and prepared), Sugar, Sugar Confectionery, Tea, Nasal Drops, Nasal Inhaler.

One Formal Milk sample was found to be adulterated or irregular, and one Informal sample of each of Cake Mixture, Cooked and Prepared Meat, and Milk were found to be adulterated or irregular.

The County Council carried out the following sampling and analyses of food and drugs during 1957 in the whole of the County area for which they are the Food and Drugs Authority:—

Samples analysed—Involving 76 items of food and drugs:

Formal	...	...	...	701
Informal	...	...	...	207

Found "adulterated or irregular":

Formal	...	...	...	28
Informal	...	...	...	11

Legal proceedings were instituted and convictions obtained against two dairy farmers; one for selling Channel Islands Milk deficient in milk fat, the other for selling Channel Islands Milk containing added water.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Surrey County Council Clinics are as follows:

At "Hillsleigh," Nightingale Road, Godalming.

Ante-Natal: Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Child Welfare: Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m. (No Doctor on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays).

Child Guidance: Tuesdays, by appointment only.

Dental: Mondays, 9.30 a.m. Other days and times by appointment only.

Diphtheria Immunisation: School-children at School Medical Clinics. Pre-School Children at Child Welfare Clinics.

Eye: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2 p.m. 2nd Wednesdays a.m. 4th Tuesdays a.m. (by appointment only).

School Medical: Fridays, 9.30 a.m. (except during School Summer Holidays).

Relaxation and Mothercraft: Mondays, 2.30 p.m.

At St. Mark's Hall, Ockford Ridge, Godalming.

Welfare Clinics: Every Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m. (No Doctor on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays).

Regional Hospital Board Clinics are as follows:

At Milford Chest Hospital, near Godalming.

Chest Clinic: 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, 1.45 to 4.30 p.m. Other weeks a Clinic is held on Wednesday afternoons, 2.30 to 4 p.m. (by appointment).

At Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.

Venereal Diseases Clinic:

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.

Females: Mondays, 3 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, 9.30 to 11 a.m.

